

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6785

INFO AMCONSUL SURABAYA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 5376

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, ID

SUBJECT: CHANGING OF THE GUARD

FOLLOWING MSG SENT ACTION JAKARTA MAY 5, 1973,
NOW PASSED FOR YOUR INFO:

QUOTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEDAN 0129

SUBJ: CHANGING OF THE GUARD

WHOLESALE RESHUFFLE OF TOP MILITARY LEADERSHIP OF SUMATRA WHICH WAS EXPECTED TO FOLLOW CONCLUSION OF MPR IN APRIL HAS NOW TAKEN PLACE. MAJOR CHANGES SO FAR AT KOWILHAN LEVEL WITH LIEUTENANT GENERAL ACHMAD TAHIR LEAVING FOR PARIS AS AMBASSADOR, MAJOR GENERAL HERMAN BUDOJO FOR JAKARTA TO HANKAM AND BRIGADIER GENERAL SUDHARMONO FOR WEST IRIAN AS STAFF OFFICER AT KODAM LEVEL. ONLY KODAM PANGlima AFFECTED HERE IS YEASIR HADIBROTO, LEAVING KODAM II FOR KODAM VINON ALTHOUGH KUNAEFI IN ACEH AND SOEMANTORO IN WEST SUMATRA SAID TO BE LEAVING SOON. ONLY FIRST RATE PERSONALITY IN LOT IS TAHIR, WHO PROFESSES TO BE HAPPY WITH PARIS BUT IS QUOTED BY FRIENDS AS AGREEING WITH GENERAL ADJIE, " RATHER A LURAH IN WEST JAVA THAN AMBASSADOR IN LONDON." DESPITE HIS PROVEN ABILITY, CERTAIN AWARENESS, AND PROBABLE DISTASTE, TAHIR PRESIDED OVER A SYSTEM HERE THAT DOES LITTLE CREDIT TO THE NEW ORDER' S CLAIM TO

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RESPECT ABILITY. HIS ELDEST SON (TWO OTHERS AND THREE DAUGHTERS)
WAS
DEEPLY INVOLVED IN A NUMBER OF UNSAVORY VENTURES, AS WERE HIS WIFE,
BROTHER AND SUNDRY COUSINS. BUT HE IS A HOME TOWN BOY AND MUCH
WAS FORGIVEN, WITH MANY PIOUS HOPES THAT HE WOULD GO ON TO JAKARTA
AND HELP PAK HARTO CLEAN UP THE MESS. PARIS IS SEEN AS A COMEDOWN
FOR ONE OF SUMATRA' S BEST REPRESENTATIVES AND INDONESIA' S MORE
HONEST GENERALS, AND THE TWO ATTRIBUTES ARE THOUGHT TO HAVE GOT
HIM A FEW YEARS OF CUSHY EXILE. GENERAL WIDJDO, HIS REPLACEMENT,
CAPS A NEW AND ALMOST EXCLUSIIFLY JAVANESE SUPERSTRUCTURE HERE,
WITH KODAM II PANGLIMA ATMAJQXN A SUDANESE, THE ONLY HOLDOUT.
COLONEL HUTAGALUNG, THE BATAK CHIEF OF STAFF OF KODAM II, A ONCE
INFLUENTIAL NATIVE SON, HAVE BEEN SHUNTED ASIDE IN FAVOR OF HIS

DEPUTY. PROBABLY OF SMALL CONSEQUENCE BUT THE MILITARY HAD ALWAYS
BEEN CAREFUL ABOUT KEEPING ONE OR TWO LOCAL BOYS IN THE UPPER RANKS
AND THIS MARKS A NEW DEPARTURE. HAIL AND FAREWELL TGPACHMAD TAHIR--
WE MAY SEE HIM BACK SOMEDAY, PROBABLY IN THE COMPANY OF DHARSONO,
KEMAL IDRUS AND SARWO EDHIE. DONT' S HOLD YOUR BREATH.
DION

UNQUOTE:
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NMAFVVZCZ

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